Mining projects undertaken by MMTC in Rajasthan

3491. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to State :

(a) whether there are any new mining projects undertaken by the Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation in Rajasthan.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the MMTC has made any new surveys to find new Minerals in Rajasthan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Sir

Judicious exploitation of mineral resources

3492. SHRI R. P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent report entitled "undermining India" brought out by Kalpvariksh, a Non-Governmental Organisation highligthing that indiscriminate mining of bauxite, iron ore, lime stone etc. in certains parts of the country is destroying some of the most ecologically sensitive areas, including catchment that provide water to millions of people, and is a threat to long term water security;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) details of fresh strategies drawn up for a more judicious exploitation of the mineral resources of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Mines, Government of India is aware of recent Newspaper reports on the concerns expressed in a study done by Kalpavariksh, a non-Governmental Organisation, in their report "Undermining India".

The National Mineral Policy, 1993 (NMP), *inter alia* recognizes that the policies governing the mining and mineral sector should be harmonized with the policies governing industrial and socio-economic developments in the country. Some mineral rich areas are ecologically fragile and some are biologically rich.

NMP states that it is necessary to take comprehensive view to facilitate the choice or order of land use keeping in view the needs of development as well as needs of protecting the forests, environment and ecology. Both aspects have to be properly coordinated to facilitate and ensure a sustainable development of mineral resources in harmony with environment.

As envisaged in the NMP, in order to ensure scientific and systematic mining with due regard to environment, under mining statutes, no mining lease can be granted without an approved mining plan. Stringent penalties have been provided for violations of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988. Mining activities are also subject to other laws of the land including the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules made thereunder. Mining industry is also required to follow the air pollution and water pollution norms. For major mining projects of bauxite, iron ore, limestone etc., public hearing and environmental impact assessment studies are required before mining leases are granted. In addition, mining in ecologically fragile regions is restricted under specific Regulations and Notifications like the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, Aravalli Notification, etc.

The independent studies and reports on effect of mining on environment brought out from time to time help the Government in taking policy decisions and streamlining the monitoring mechanism for sustainable development of mineral resources in harmony with environment, which is an ongoing process.

Electricity from Mills Waste and Garbage

3493. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government have formulated a plan to generate electricity from sugar mills waste and garbage in Urban areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of expected capacity and the approximate amount needed for generation in the country and the details of Co-operative Sugar Mills, which have applied for generating electricity by such method in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN) : (a) and (b) National Programmes are under implementation for surplus power generation through bagasse co-generation in sugar mills and energy recovery from urban and industrial wastes.